

Middleton Electric Light Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
February 21, 2024

The following individuals were in attendance:

Frank Twiss, Chairman  
Chuck Clinch  
Jim Kelley  
Jim Carbone  
Michael Cloutier, Manager

Chairman Twiss called the meeting to order at 5:06PM.

***Approval of Agenda:***

**Motion:**

**Jim Kelley motioned to approve the agenda as written. Chuck Clinch seconded the motion. Motioned carried 4-0.**

***Approval of Minutes:***

**Motion:**

**Chuck Clinch motioned to approve the minutes of January 17, 2024, as written. Jim Carbone seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.**

***Financials:***

Power supply shows we are down about 4 million KWH from what we purchased in 2022. We made money, but we also lowered the rates in November 2023 by one cent. We do not see any need to increase rates in the near future. Financially, we had a very good year. The interest income was \$2,941,966.00 more than 2022. January and February 2024 are tracking well. Sales are down

due to the warm weather, and it appears this trend will follow through the first quarter. Seven years ago, we were selling more KWH than we are now. This is due to the high efficiency electrical products being used in today's market. Our cash position is healthy, but we have a few capital expenditures coming up. These include the \$44K Ford Lightning Truck that was just delivered and the truck from Kiley will be about \$340K.

***In Lieu of Taxes:***

The amount of \$258,212.05 was calculated using the worksheet formula. This is about \$50K more than last year.

**Motion:**

**Jim Kelley made a motion to approve a \$258,212.00 payment to the Town, in lieu of taxes, for the fiscal year 2025. Chuck Clinch seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

***Budget Discussion:***

Mr. Cloutier included a copy of the Operations & Maintenance Budget in the Commissioners' packet. For 2023, we did better overall in the Actual YTD than the original 2023 Budget. This was a combination of our power supply numbers being a bit low and our interest income being high. Mr. Cloutier readjusted to take into account the November rate decrease. He does not expect to collect as much as we did in 2023. The power supply was increased about \$600K more than was budgeted in 2023, as the 2023 spot market was low, and he does not anticipate that it will continue to be that low. The Capital Budget indicates a higher total partly due to the purchase of the new trucks, and the upcoming building improvements. The building renovations include an additional bay, overhang over back, renovation of three bathrooms, new flooring, sprinklers, and increase size of linemen's room.

**Motion:**

**Jim Kelley motioned to approve the Operations and Maintenance Budget for calendar year 2024 as presented. Chuck Clinch seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

**Motion:**

**Chuck Clinch motioned to approve the Capital Budget as presented. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

***Manager's Report:***

On January 17, 2024, Ryan Raftery fell while putting a plow on and hit his knee. He was sent to see his doctor and put on Workers' Compensation.

There have been two outages since our last meeting. January 22, 2024, a cutout broke on River Street, at the old Autoroll building. January 28, 2024, a pole was hit on Kenney Road, pole and transformer had to be replaced.

Ford Lightening truck received February 9<sup>th</sup>. We are not getting a charger, we are just plugging it into 120. It is charged 16 to 18 hours a day and has 100% charge over the weekend. After the rebate the cost was around \$44K.

The bucket truck should be in a couple of weeks. This will bring the fleet up to date. We have been spending a lot of money on repairs for the older trucks.

The complete budget for the building renovations will be around \$3 million. It will add significant space to the existing facility. With the renovations we will be able to remove at least one of the rented storage trailers.

Mr. Cloutier has been talking with the Assistant Town Administrator regarding the generators at the planned golf course project. They were planning on a grant for them, but it did not come through. Mr. Cloutier offered to help them out with the generators, and they were interested in his idea. Originally, they planned on a 500 and a 125 sized generator. Neither building was going to be 100% covered. Mr. Cloutier proposed a 2 ½ Meg generator big enough to run the whole facility. They liked this idea. The Department of Energy is offering a Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership grant. It is a 50% grant. We are working on the grant application.

GML:

Holden is now a member. Rowley and Marblehead may become members. Another tree crew is being added in addition to Dave Burch's crew. There have been a lot of requests for tree trimming and there is enough work to add another crew at this time.

***Manager's Review:***

Chairman Twiss proposed we table the discussion until we have a full board present. Mr. Cloutier agreed to this proposal.

Next meeting: March 27, 2024.

Chuck Clinch motioned to adjourn at 6:25PM. Jim Kelley seconded motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James Carbone  
Clerk